

**California Department of Fish and Game**  
**Climate Change Activities**  
**Overview**

In keeping with its mission, the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is committed to reducing the effects of climate change on the state's natural resources and taking action designed to mitigate the impacts and help species adapt to a changing landscape. By completing a thorough evaluation of our internal and external conservation programs to look for opportunities to mitigate climate change, participating in regional and national efforts, and identifying emerging partnerships, DFG is positioning itself to continue to serve in a leadership capacity to guide efforts in the state on climate change impacts to fish and wildlife.

**Providing climate leadership through personnel additions**

- In February 2008, DFG hired a Climate Change Advisor, Amber Pairis, Ph.D., who will focus on coordinating activities related to climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Through the efforts of the Climate Change Advisor, the Department is focusing on developing a climate change strategy for fish and wildlife within DFG's management and policy branches and integrating a thought process into all natural resources activities that actively addresses climate change.

**Identify and reduce our carbon footprint**

- Following through on DFG's commitment to report its greenhouse gas emissions as a member of the California Climate Action Registry, DFG is on target with its goal to collect 2007 emissions data from its extensive fleet of vehicles and equipment, a number of buildings and more than 2,000 employees throughout the state.

**Climate Change Task force**

- DFG established an internal **climate change task force** that is initiating a planning process with respect to climate change and will review DFG regulations, policies, and practices to look at how the Department can change the ways it conducts business to reduce the carbon footprint and better respond to the effects of climate change on fish and wildlife.
- **Crafting a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy:** DFG held its first workshop on June 13, 2008 to begin to craft a climate change adaptation strategy for fish and wildlife. More than 60 participants were in attendance including DFG employees and stakeholders. The workshop was intended to serve as a first step in building on existing efforts to implement California's Wildlife Action Plan while incorporating a climate change context into the process.
- **Creation of internal discussion groups on key issues:** DFG is bringing together key staff to discuss climate change in relation to several key areas including CEQA, carbon sequestration, and discussion with the Department of Water Resources on ecosystem protection/restoration.
- **Stakeholder outreach:** In order to maintain and increase communication and collaboration among stakeholders and DFG, partners from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia, state, and federal agencies are regularly brought together to provide direct input to the climate change task force.

- **Work with partners:** In addition to the work with stakeholders, DFG is working with various partners on climate change projects at the national, regional, and local levels including the climate change subcommittee of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Western Governors Association, and various California partners including the California Biodiversity Council and the California Council on Science and Technology.

#### **Work with other State Agencies**

- **Resources Agency's climate action team subgroups:** Gov. Schwarzenegger directed the Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency to coordinate with the appropriate agencies to lead a climate action team to implement global warming emission reduction programs and report on the progress to meet statewide greenhouse gas targets. Subgroups have been created to take on different aspects of this task and the Climate Change Advisor participates in the forest, land use, and water and energy climate action team subgroup meetings and advises the state on factors relating to adaptation and mitigation for climate change effects on fish and wildlife.
- **CEQA and climate change:** DFG has taken a leadership role in developing approaches to address California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance with respect to natural resource conservation and climate change. DFG is working closely with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research and the Attorney General's office to develop new standards for impact assessment and mitigation measure development.
- **Department of Water Resources:** DFG is working with the Department of Water Resources to look for opportunities to collaborate on climate change challenges to ecosystem protection/restoration.

#### **Educate ourselves**

- A **Web site** has been created [www.dfg.ca.gov/climatechange](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/climatechange) that will be a resource to DFG employees and others and serve as a venue for sending a message to the public and our partners about DFG's commitment to addressing the challenges of climate change in all of its endeavors.
- **Climate Change Seminar:** A joint climate change seminar was held by DFG and the CA Energy Commission, Public Interest Research (PIER) group. The workshop brought together nine different researchers to talk about the impacts of climate change specific to California. The seminar was well attended with more than 95 participants in attendance and 35 participants on the web.
- **Climate change outreach to DFG regions:** Climate change briefings are being provided to DFG Regions throughout the state. Presentation includes a climate change overview and information on the Department's efforts to address climate change.